

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-4, and add new claims 5-6 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A container capable of keeping a lengthwise contracted state in which a container body comprises:

a top tap;

a small width in a height direction at a bottom; and

a horizontal bellows formed on the whole or part in a longitudinal direction of the container body, except the top tap, and the width in the height direction,

wherein when the bellows of said container is pressed longitudinally from both sides thereof toward a center,

said bellows is collapsed to overlap, a connection between the top tap and the container body is bent to provide a bent and place the top tap in the overlapping bellows, [[and]]

the width in the height direction at the bottom of the container body is placed in the bent and the overlapping bellows, and this state is kept,

the bellows includes (1) a upper group of folds increasing gradually in diameter connecting with each other, each upper-group fold having an upper side thereof connected with a lower side thereof with an outside periphery therebetween, and (2) a lower group of folds maintaining an identical diameter and connecting with each other, each lower-group fold having an upper side thereof connected with a lower side thereof with an outside periphery therebetween, a first lower-group fold having an upper side thereof connected with a lower side of a last upper-group fold, the identical diameter of the lower-group folds being longer than the diameters of the upper-group folds, and

said folds are so formed that forces along the longitudinal direction applied to the top tap and the bottom reach a balance such that outside peripheries of the upper-group folds are raised upward and the outside peripheries of the lower-group folds are collapsed downward.

2. (Currently Amended) A contraction method of a container capable of keeping a lengthwise contracted state, comprising: in which

providing the container with a container body comprises:

a top tap;

a small width in a height direction at a bottom; and

a horizontal bellows formed on the whole or part in a longitudinal direction of the container body, except the top tap, and the width in the height direction,

wherein when the bellows of said container is pressed longitudinally from both sides thereof toward a center,

said bellows is collapsed to overlap, a connection between the top tap and the container body is bent to provide a bent and place the top tap in the overlapping bellows, [[and]]

the width in the height direction at the bottom of the container body is placed in the bent and the overlapping bellows, and this state is kept, and

the bellows includes (1) a upper group of folds increasing gradually in diameter connecting with each other, each upper-group fold having an upper side thereof connected with a lower side thereof with an outside periphery therebetween, and (2) a lower group of folds maintaining an identical diameter and connecting with each other, each lower-group fold having an upper side thereof connected with a lower side thereof with an outside periphery therebetween, a first lower-group fold having an upper side thereof connected with a lower side of a last upper-group fold, the identical diameter of the lower-group folds being longer than the diameters of the upper-group folds; and

applying forces along the longitudinal direction to the top tap and the bottom to reach a balance such that outside peripheries of the upper-group folds are raised upward and the outside peripheries of the lower-group folds are collapsed downward.

3. (Currently Amended) A container capable of keeping a lengthwise contracted state in which a container body comprises:

a top tap;

a small width in a height direction at a bottom;

a flat portion in a middle portion; and

a horizontal bellows formed on the whole or part in a longitudinal direction of the container body, except the tap, the width in the height direction, and the flat portion,

wherein when the bellows of said container is pressed longitudinally from both sides thereof toward a center,

said bellows and the flat portion are ~~[[is]]~~ collapsed to overlap, a connection between the top tap and the container body is bent to provide a bent and place the top tap in the overlapping bellows and~~[[/or]]~~ the overlapping flat portion, ~~[[and]]~~

the width in the height direction at the bottom of the container body is placed in the bent ~~and, the~~ overlapping bellows and~~[[/or]]~~ the overlapping flat portion, and this state is kept,

the bellows includes (1) a upper group of folds increasing gradually in diameter connecting with each other, each upper-group fold having an upper side thereof connected with a lower side thereof with an outside periphery therebetween, and (2) a lower group of folds maintaining an identical diameter and connecting with each other, each lower-group fold having an upper side thereof connected with a lower side thereof with an outside periphery therebetween, a first lower-group fold having an upper side thereof connected with a lower side of a last upper-group fold, the identical diameter of the lower-group folds being longer than the diameters of the upper-group folds, and

said folds are so formed that forces along the longitudinal direction applied to the top tap and the bottom reach a balance such that outside peripheries of the upper-group folds are raised upward and the outside peripheries of the lower-group folds are collapsed downward.

4. (Currently Amended) A contraction method of a container capable of keeping a lengthwise contracted state , comprising: in which

providing the container with a container body comprises:

a top tap;

a small width in a height direction at a bottom;

a flat portion in a middle portion; and

a horizontal bellows formed on the whole or part in a longitudinal direction of the container body, except the top tap, and the width in the height direction, wherein when the bellows of said container is pressed longitudinally from both sides thereof toward a center,

said bellows and the flat portion are ~~[[is]]~~ collapsed to overlap, a connection

between the top tap and the container body is bent to provide a bent and place[[d]] the top tap in the overlapping bellows, and

the width in the height direction at the bottom of the container body is placed in the bent, the [[and]] overlapping bellows and the overlapping flat portion, and this state is kept, and

~~a contraction method thereof~~

the bellows includes (1) a upper group of folds increasing gradually in diameter connecting with each other, each upper-group fold having an upper side thereof connected with a lower side thereof with an outside periphery therebetween, and (2) a lower group of folds maintaining an identical diameter and connecting with each other, each lower-group fold having an upper side thereof connected with a lower side thereof with an outside periphery therebetween, a first lower-group fold having an upper side thereof connected with a lower side of a last upper-group fold, the identical diameter of the lower-group folds being longer than the diameters of the upper-group folds; and

applying forces along the longitudinal direction to the top tap and the bottom to reach a balance such that outside peripheries of the upper-group folds are raised upward and the outside peripheries of the lower-group folds are collapsed downward.

5. (New) The container according to claim 1, wherein each upper-group fold has the upper side longer than the lower side.
6. (New) The container according to claim 3, wherein each upper-group fold has the upper side longer than the lower side.